

Activities

Here are some fun water activities you can try at home with an adult

Explore the shape of water with Bubbles

Supplies Needed:

Plain water

Dish soap

Bubble wand

Container to hold water

Water has skin just like you and me; it's called "surface tension." Check out what happens when you decrease water's surface tension by making soap bubbles. First, dip a bubble wand in plain water. Now try and blow bubbles. What happens? Now try again using the soapy water. What happens?

You get bubbles with the soapy water only, because soap reduces the surface tension of the water and allows the "skin" to stretch. This means the same amount of water now fills a larger space can float.

Read up on more water experiments: *Experiment with Water* by Bryan Murphy

Play a game of water balloon toss

Supplies Needed:

Balloons

Water

Play this game on grass, so you aren't wasting water

Fill round balloons with water and toss to a partner. Watch how the balloons' shape changes because of air pressure and gravity.

Try a water-based snack!

Did you know that watermelons are 90% water? After you enjoy the watermelon, have a seed spitting contest outside to see who can spit seeds the farthest.

Octopus Craft

Supplies:

Black marker

Crayons or paint

Construction paper

1. Using a black marker or crayon to draw the letter "O" on a piece of construction paper.
2. Use crayons, markers, or paint to create an octopus. Be sure to add seaweed, bubbles, and other fish to make it look like an underwater sea scene. If you want, use eight tissue paper strips for the tentacles.

Rainbow Crystal Garden Craft

Supplies:

Glass baking pan

Metal mixing bowl

Six charcoal briquettes

Six different hues of food coloring

½ cup water

½ cup ammonia

½ cup salt

What you do:

1. Place charcoal briquettes in the baking pan, evenly space
2. Squeeze several drops of food coloring on each of the charcoal briquettes. Use one color for each briquette or mix the colors as you wish

3. In the mixing bowl, combine the water, bluing, ammonia, and salt into a solution. Mix well. BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET THE AMMONIA NEAR YOUR FACE
4. Pour enough liquid solution over the briquettes to saturate them, and then store the remaining liquid in a tightly-sealed container
5. Set the pan in a safe, warm place
6. Check your garden every 2-3 days; mix and carefully add more liquid solution as needed
7. Watch your rainbow crystal garden grow!

The charcoal is absorbing the liquid. As the solution evaporates, salt and bits of dye are evaporated and blue the surface. Food coloring makes the briquette's crystals a different color.

Toy Boat

Supplies:

Styrofoam boat

Drinking straw

Colored paper

Clay or play dough

Scissors

Sticker (optional)

Tape (optional)

What you do:

1. Cut a sail shape (square or triangle) from the colored paper. Attach it to the straw with tape, or cut slits in the paper and weave the straw through the slits
2. Stick a piece of the clay or play dough (about a grape-sized piece) in the bottom of the bowl
3. Anchor the end of your drinking straw mast into the clay
4. Decorate your ship with stickers, and set sail in the sink or bathtub

Make a splash by conserving water

- Participate in a beach cleanup with your family
- Don't leave the water running while brushing your teeth
- Take shorter showers/use less water in the bathtub
- Use a broom to clean your driveway instead of a hose
- When you load the dishwasher, make sure it is full before turning it on
- Instead of running through the sprinkler, head to the beach
- Check all water fixtures for leaks and fix/replace those that are leaky

Web Sites

Check out these great sites!

Earth Force. <http://www.earthforce.org/>

Cousteau Kids Online. <http://www.cousteaukids.org/index.html>

Sea and Sky. <http://www.seasky.org/>

Surfrider Foundation, San Diego chapter.

<http://www.surfridersd.org/index.php>